

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 SP-02
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 10880

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: ECOSOC
SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC: ILLICIT PAYMENTS INITIATIVE

REF: A) STATE 175726

1. DISCUSSIONS ON U.S. PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE IN 1979 TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS HAVE CONTINUED. FRENCH REP (BAUCHARD) REPORTED RESISTANCE IN EC MEETINGS TO SETTING A SPECIFIC DATE FOR A CONFERENCE. EUROPEAN DELS ARE FEARFUL THAT RAPID MOVEMENT ON BRIBARY TREATY MAY HASTEN PROGRESS AND CONCLUSION OF CODE OF CONDUCT EXERCISE. HE ALSO NOTED, RECALLING THE COMMISSION ON TNE'S MEETING IN VIENNA, THAT OPPOSITION FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES MAY BE A PROBLEM. WHEN QUERIED ON FRENCH CO-SPONSORSHIP OF U.S. DRAFT RESOLUTION, HE PROMISED TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS. RELUCTANCE ON SETTING A SPECIFIC CONFERENCE DATE WAS ALSO VOICED BY NETHERLANDS DEL WHO ALSO SEEKING INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING U.S. PROPOSAL.

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2. SWEDISH DEL INDICATED THAT THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A JOINT NORDIC STATEMENT ENDORSING THE TREATY PROPOSAL DURING THE COMMITTEE MEETING WHEN THE ITEM ARISES. HE INDICATED THAT THE HAD NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON CO-SPONSORSHIP. THE UAE HAS SAID IT WILL SUPPORT THE U.S. PROPOSAL IN COMMITTEE.

3. AS SUGGESTED IN REFTTEL, U.S. REP HAD CORDIAL DISCUSSION WITH DR. CHRISTIANS. ALTHOUGH HE STRESSED THAT HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THE BASIC SUBSTANCE OF U.S. PROPOSAL, HE INSISTED THAT 1979 WAS TOO EARLY, AND THAT 1981 WOULD BE PREFERABLE. REASON CITED WAS THAT THE PREPARATORY PROCESS MUST BE BROADENED TO ACCOMODATE THE CONCERNS OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT YET PARTICIPATED IN THE WORKING GROUP. WHEN PRESSED, HE INDICATED THAT GOV HAS NOT FULLY STUDIED THE DRAFT TREATY, AND MAY HAVE FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS WITH IT.

4. FRIENDLY SOURCES IN THE G-77 HAVE ADVISED CAUTION IN PROPOSING A MEETING WITH THE GROUP ON THE U.S. PROPOSAL. THEY POINT OUT THAT SUCH A MEETING MIGHT PLACE THE ISSUE IN A NORTH SOUTH CONTEXT, HARDEN POSITIONS PREMATURELY, AND STRENGTHEN THE PERCEPTION, ALREADY HELD BY MANY G-77 MEMBERS, THAT THIS IS A U.S. ISSUE OF HIGH PRIORITY FOR WHICH CONCESSIONS CAN BE EXTRACTED. WE ARE EXPLORING THIS ISSUE FURTHER AND WILL ADVISE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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